April 2015 Block of the Month Snail Trail Block

Like many other quilt blocks, this block has been called by other names, such as Monkey Wrench and Virginia Reel. It's a variation of the diamond in a square quilt block that gives the illusion of a curved spiral.

Cutting Instructions

Depending on how many fabrics you use, you'll need to cut the following squares from each fabric.   (In these instructions, only two fabrics were used. If you use 4 fabrics, you'll need one square of each size.)

Cut two squares 2 5/8 inches.
Cut one square 3 7/8 inches.
Cut one square 5 1/4 inches.
Cut one square 6 7/8 inches.

Take your four 2 5/8 inch squares and arrange in a four patch, alternating your fabrics as shown.

Sew your rows together and press your seams opposite directions so you can nest your seams.

Sew your rows together and press.

Take your 3 7/8 inch fabric squares and cut across the diagonal, creating two equal triangles.

Take a moment to arrange your fabrics so you start to create your spiral.
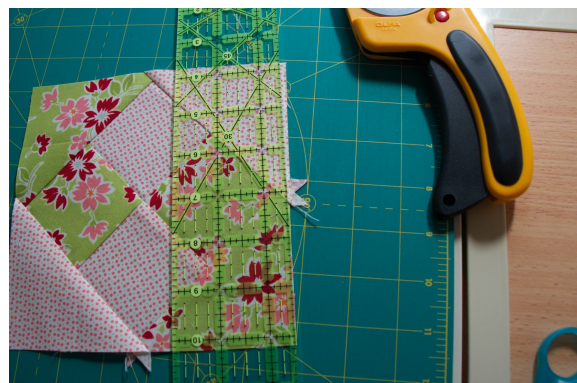
When you align your triangles for sewing, be sure you align the point of the triangle to the center seam. Sew opposite triangles of the same fabric first before moving on to the next fabric. (In this case the green floral fabric). Press.

Sew your other triangles and press.

The next step is important for lining up the subsequent triangles. Take your ruler and place your 1/4 inch mark on the point and trim any fabric that extends over 1/4 inch.

Cut the diagonal of the 5 1/4 inch squares, and place your fabric as shown. When aligning these triangles, you'll need to align the point to center, then carefully shift your fabric up to align with the edge. Sew and trim as described in the previous step.

Cut the diagonal of the 6 7/8 inch squares and place your fabric as shown, creating your spiral. Sew and trim as described previously.

You've finished the block!

Be sure to check out our Pinterest website at https://www.pinterest.com/southernbrancho/ for ideas of how to modify this block, other tutorials, and quilts made from the block.

Please contact corkips@gmail.com if you have any questions.